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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,053	09/17/2003	Ken Matsunaga	4041J-000773	6586

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EXAMINER

CAMPBELL, THOR S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3742

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/666,053

Applicant(s)

MATSUNAGA ET AL. *CR*

Examiner

Thor S. Campbell

Art Unit

3742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaCombe in view of Pokorny et al. (US 6205292).

LaCombe discloses a heater system comprising a pump for circulating fluid through a heating device for heating the fluid; fluid passage; a first temperature detecting means 117; and a second temperature detecting means 116, wherein the second temperature detecting means is disposed downstream from the heating device, wherein when it is determined that a temperature exceeds a predetermined level, heating operation of the heating device is stopped. With respect to claims 8-11, LaCombe discloses a heating apparatus for heating air comprising a pump 210 for circulating fluid; a heating device 13 for heating the fluid; a heat exchanger; for performing heat exchange between the air and the fluid heated by the heating device, a first sensor 116 for detecting a temperature that changes in accordance with heat generation of the heating device; and a second sensor for detecting a temperature of the fluid at a position proximate to a fluid inlet of the heat exchanger wherein when a temperature difference between detected temperatures detected by the first sensor and the second sensor is greater than a predetermined level, heating operation of the heating device is stopped. It is noted that the heating arrangement of LaCombe will act as an air heater in the sense that the air around the heated passage with exchange heat with the air surrounding it. LaCombe discloses the claimed invention except the

Art Unit: 3742

temperature detecting means being in contact with the heated passage for detecting the temperature of the heated passage. Pokorny discloses a temperature sensor for detecting the temperature of the heated passage in a fluid heater. Pokorny also discloses a second temperature sensor downstream from the heater for sensing the temperature of the heated fluid. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, in view of Pokorny, to modify the device of LaCombe to position the temperature detecting means so as to detect the temperature of the passageway in order to accurately measure the temperature of the surface of the passage rather than the fluid inside and to position the second temperature sensor away from the passageway, e.g. on outflow tube 85 in LaCombe, in order to accurately sense the temperature of the heated fluid with out interference from the heater.

With respect to claims 12 and 14, the claims do not positively recite any structure, rather an intended use. It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thor S. Campbell whose telephone number is 571-272-4776. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fri 5:30AM-4:00PM.

Art Unit: 3742

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on 571-272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TSC



**THOR CAMPBELL
PATENT EXAMINER**